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PATENT  
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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: De Francesco, R. *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/085,476 Case No.: ITR0002PCA

Art Unit: 1652

Filed: February 27, 2002

Examiner: Huston, Richard G

For: METHOD FOR REPRODUCING IN VITRO  
THE RNA-DEPENDENT RNA  
POLYMERASE AND TERMINAL  
NUCLEOTIDYL TRANSFERASE  
ACTIVITIES ENCODED BY HEPATITIS C  
VIRUS (HCV)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the office action mailed January 26, 2005, please amend the above-identified as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

37 C.F.R. 1.8 Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

By Sheldon O. Heber

Date April 26, 2005

Sheldon O. Heber